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TheVoice

FDF: Speaking for the food and drink manufacturing industry

The UK's biggest manufacturing sector launches steps to success

The next Government must support the UK's food and drink sector as a strategic priority in its own right, according to the Food and Drink Federation (FDF), which has published a checklist of 20 ways to safeguard the future success of the country's biggest manufacturing industry.

The checklist sets out the measures that FDF believes the next Government could adopt to maintain the competitiveness of the food and drink sector. The measures are set out in simple steps across five themes: create a vision for food; back us in going green; cut the red tape; support manufacturers; and protect innovation.

FDF Director General Melanie Leech said: "Our checklist sets out the ways in which we think the next Government should support an economically important, high value manufacturing sector. All our ideas are easy to implement and should be cost neutral for taxpayers."

For your copy of the checklist please call Abigail Cross on 020 7420 7157 or visit the FDF website at www.fdf.org.uk

Food and drink exports buck the trend in 2009

Exports of food and non-alcoholic drinks bucked the recessionary trend and were up 10.2% to £4.82bn in the first six months of the year, according to new research commissioned by the Food and Drink Federation (FDF). Exports of all UK goods were down 13.4% over the same period.

If this strong performance is maintained through the second half of 2009, food and non-alcoholic drinks exports could pass through the £10bn barrier for the first time. The sector is already on track for its fourth consecutive year of record export growth.

Show your support for the sector by signing EDM 175 praising food and drink exporters for their efforts in what are very challenging international trading conditions.

Carbon emissions cut by food sector says FDF report

FDF member companies reduced their CO₂ emissions by 19% in 2008, compared with a 1990 baseline.

The data – which is the latest available under our sector's Climate Change Agreement with Government – shows that our members have saved the equivalent of almost one million tonnes of CO₂ since 1990 and are on track towards meeting FDF's target to reduce their emissions by 20% by 2010 and our longer term aspiration of 30% by 2020.

FDF has produced a report to mark the second anniversary of its environmental work and have announced that significant progress has been made in the other four pillars of the FDF Ambition – sending zero factory waste to landfill; reducing packaging; using 'fewer and friendlier' food transport miles; and significantly boosting water efficiency in our production facilities.

Please get in touch if you would like to receive a copy of the report.

www.fdf.org.uk

If you want information about anything in this newsletter, please call Abigail Cross on 020 7420 7127

Food and Drink Federation 

Making a real difference

FDf responds to Defra's Food 2030 Consultation

A thriving and sustainable food system in the UK – to 2030 and beyond – must be an overarching Government priority in its own right, FDF told Defra when responding to its Food 2030 consultation.

Clear, coherent and consistent policies in all areas which contribute to the food system must override all other policy objectives in order to deliver sustainable food production.

We face a global challenge to feed a growing population under ever increasing pressure on key resources such as energy, water and land, exacerbated by the likely effects of climate change. Each country including the UK has an obligation to exploit its productive potential to the full. International trade also has a key role to play in helping to balance global supply and demand and mitigating risk.

How FDF works for its members

The Food and Drink Federation speaks on behalf of one of the most important manufacturing sectors in the country, directly employing almost 440,000 people.

FDF is focusing on the issues that matter most to members and to the consumers the industry serves:

- Food Safety and Science
- Health and Wellbeing
- Sustainability
- Competitiveness

Our front cover picture was taken at the Slough factory of FDF member company Mars Chocolate UK.

Food companies celebrate their community commitment

Companies from across the food and drink industry have been celebrating their success following the unveiling of the 2009 Food and Drink Federation (FDF) Community Partnership Awards winners.

The Awards, which celebrate some of the inspirational ways in which companies work within their communities, were presented at a prestigious luncheon at the Institute of Directors in London on 15 October. Environment Minister Jim Fitzpatrick MP presented the awards.



Attendees from across the food and drink sector gather before the ceremony

Divided into five categories: Local Community; Culture, Media and Sport; Workplace; Education; and – new for this year – Environment, the Awards showcase the community-related projects being undertaken by companies across the food and drink sector.

The winners of the Gold awards were: Mars Chocolate UK in the Local Community category; McDonald's Restaurants in the Culture, Media and Sport category; Nestlé UK in the Workplace category; Unilever UK in the Education category; and, Taylors of Harrogate and Müller Dairy in the Environment category.

Julian Hunt, FDF Director of Communications, said: "All our winning initiatives demonstrate the different ways in which our industry is helping to educate, inspire and develop communities across the UK. And it's great to see that companies are continuing to see the value of investing their time, money and effort into this work despite the economic slowdown."

Clearly, the awards can only showcase a handful of the hundreds of industry-backed initiatives that are now underway in the UK. But the 2009 winners are all great examples of best practice – and their success helps to explain why the food and drink industry plays such an important role right at the heart of Britain's communities.

In all, there were 22 gold, silver, bronze and highly commended awards this year from a record number of entries.

APPG discuss challenges of reformulation

The Food and Drink Manufacturing All Party Parliamentary Group met on 02 November to discuss the challenges manufacturers face in changing product recipes.

The session was chaired by Bill Wiggin MP and attended by a range of companies with samples of their products to demonstrate some of the technical difficulties they face when trying to remove fat, salt and sugar from popular food and drink brands.

FDF's members have been voluntarily embracing this particular challenge for a number of years, and they are now leading the way when it comes to the reformulation of popular products – meeting consumer concerns about health in a way that doesn't make any compromises on taste.

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